

NOTES ON AUSTRALIAN CESTODES

BY

P. A. MAPLESTONE

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INTRODUCTION

Whilst on the staff of the Australian Institute of Tropical Medicine, Townsville, a systematic examination was made of the large collection of Cestodes in the Museum. In addition to a considerable number of new species, the description of which will appear in subsequent papers, a number of previously described worms were found in new hosts.

I. PREVIOUSLY DESCRIBED CESTODES IN NEW HOSTS

Cittotaenia tachyglossi, Johnston, 1911
= *Cittotaenia*, sp. nov., Nicoll, 1914.

Nicoll (1914) recorded a new species of *Cittotaenia* from the Echidna, *Tachyglossus aculeatus*, Shaw, but without furnishing any description of it. Detailed re-examination of the same material proves it to be *Cittotaenia tachyglossi*, Johnston, but the dimensions are all somewhat greater than Johnston gives in his description, notwithstanding the fact that the worms are in an immature state similar to those from which the original description is given.

Diorchis flavescens (Kreffft), Johnston, 1912.

The original description of this worm was published by Krefft (1873), who named it *Taenia flavescens*, but H. Johnston (1912)¹ re-examined Krefft's material and placed it in the genus *Diorchis*. Up to the present, this cestode has been found in *Anas superciliosa*, Gmel., the Black Duck; *Spatula rhynchotis*, Lath., the Blue-winged Shoveller; *Nettion castaneum*, Eyton, the Teal; and *Aythya*

australis, Gould, the White-eyed Duck. A few badly preserved fragments of apparently the same species have been found by the writer in material taken from *Dendryocygna arcuata*, Cuvier, the Whistling Duck.

Ophiotaenia longmani, Johnston, 1916.

Johnston (1916) originally described this species from the snake *Aspidotes ramsayi*, which was taken at Yarelba, Western Queensland. The same species was recently found by the writer in the intestine of *Python spilotes* var. *variegatus*, Gray, the Carpet Snake, which was killed near Townsville, North Queensland.

Ophiotaenia hylae, Johnston, 1912.

O. hylae was described by Johnston (1912)² with the frog, *Hyla aurea*, as its host, which was captured near Sydney, New South Wales. A scolex and several proglottides of this species were found in the intestine of *D. arcuata*, the Whistling Duck, which was shot near Townsville. This is strange, as the family *Proteocephalidae*, to which the above species belongs, has hitherto been recorded only in Amphibia, Reptilia, and the dog. The most probable explanation of this occurrence is, that the duck had swallowed a frog infected with the cestode, and the frog had been sufficiently digested to liberate it into the bird's intestine, without itself having undergone digestive changes up to the time the duck was shot.

Acanthotaenia gallardi, Johnston, 1911.

This cestode was originally described by Johnston (1911)² under the name *Proteocephalus gallardi*, and subsequently placed in the genus *Acanthotaenia*. On this occasion it was found in the intestine of *Pseudechis porphyriacus*, Shaw, the Black Snake. Since then it has been recorded by Johnston (1912)³ as occurring in *Pseudechis australis*, Gray, the Northern Black Snake; *Notechis scutatus*, Peters, the Tiger Snake; and *Denisonia superba*, Gunth, the Copper-headed Snake. To this list of hosts the writer is now able to add *Dipsadomorphus fuscus*, Gray, the Brown Tree Snake,

a specimen of this snake harbouring this worm being killed near Townsville.

Moniezia alba, Blanchard, 1891.

Johnston has recorded the presence of this cestode in Australia in sheep in New South Wales, and the writer has recently obtained specimens of the same worm from a bullock, slaughtered in Townsville, and which came from near Hughenden, Western Queensland. This is the first record of this cestode in the above host in Australia.

Thysanosoma giardi, Stiles, 1893.

Johnston has noted the occurrence of this worm in sheep in New South Wales, but no note of its frequency and distribution has been given. Over a period of several months, the writer has had the opportunity of examining many worms taken from sheep in Townsville, and they all proved to be of this species. The sheep came from districts representing a wide area in Western Queensland, so it seems that it is widely distributed, and very common, but as far as could be ascertained from inquiries among pastoralists and butchers, it does not give rise to the serious pathological condition among sheep, that it does in other parts of the world.

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